

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: 'A

TAGS: SREF, ICEM

SUBJECT:

ICEM LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM

REF: GENEVA 7846

1. WE SHARE ICEM DIRECTOR'S CONCERN OVER FINANCIAL STATE OF ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM AND HAVE EXPRESSED THIS CONCERN REPEATEDLY AT MEETINGS OF ICEM GOVERNING BODIES. HOPEFULLY THE DIRECTOR'S LATEST APPEAL WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION FROM GOVERNMENTS; HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH APPEALS, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT WILL BE THE CASE. AS FOR THE USG, THE PROSPECTS OF ANY INCREASE IN OUR CONTRIBUTION FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM IN CY 1975 ARE VERY DIM INDEED. THE ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN RELATION TO THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN LATIN AMERICA, AN
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ACTIVITY FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE; HOWEVER, ICEM HAS

FAILED TO ACHIEVE ANY RESULTS IN THAT EFFORT. ICEM SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO ANALYZE THE 1975 BUDGET POSITION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTER ALIA THE INCREASED VALUE OF THE DOLLAR, INCREASED MISCELLANEOUS INCOME THROUGH INTEREST EARNINGS, INCOME FROM USG'S INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM AND FULLY FINANCED MOVEMENTS. MISSION SHOULD REPORT RESULTS OF THESE FURTHER ANALYSES AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED. SUCH INFORMATION URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR PREPARATION OF USG POSITION FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS OF ICEM SCBF, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL.

2. WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT ICEM WILL HAVE SERIOUS BUDGET PROBLEMS IN 1976 ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM. MISSION SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OVER 50 PERCENT OF PLANNED USG CONTRIBUTION WILL HAVE TO BE APPLIED TO ICEM'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET IF WE ARE TO MEET OUR ASSESSMENT. BALANCE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 1.5 MILLION FOR ICEM'S OPERATIONAL BUDGET. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE MORE THAN DOLLARS 400 THOUSAND OF THIS AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM. ICEM HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS AND MISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT NO GREATER AMOUNT BE SHOWN IN ICEM'S BUDGET AND PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR 1976. IT WOULD BE MISLEADING FOR ICEM TO DO OTHERWISE. RE PARA 3 OF REFTEL WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SEND A LETTER TO THE ICEM DIRECTOR IN THIS REGARD AS THE FY 1976 APPROPRIATION PROCESS HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND THEREFORE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANTICIPATE PRECISELY THE FUNDING AVAILABILITY. FYI PROSPECTS FOR FY 1977 EVEN DIMMER OWING PLANNED GOVERNMENT-WIDE ECONOMY DRIVE. IN VIEW OF THE SUBSTANTIAL EXPECTED DEFICIT IN THE LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM IN 1976 AND THE UNLIKLIHOOD THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL BE WILLING TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEET THAT DEFICIT, WE SHARE THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW THAT HE WILL BE LEFT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CURTAIL ICEM'S LATIN AMERICAN ACTIVITIES.

3. DRAWING ON ABOVE, MISSIONS SHOULD REVIEW MATTER WITH ICEM DIRECTOR ASAP AND REPORT HIS REACTION. INGERSOLL

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